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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- The Shanghai General Labor Union takes in all industrial workers in Shanghai.
 Its policy follows that of the civil authorities very closely, and spontaneous activity by the real working class is rare.
- 2. The Shop Employees! Union came into great prominence at the beginning of the five-anti!s movement because it was the Communists! chief source of detailed information about tax evasion by private businessmen, and their chosen instrument for denunciation of offenders. Except when pressed to do so by Communist cadres, shop employees have taken little interest in the affairs of their union. The Chinese retail trade does not lend itself to union organization, and employees, particularly in shops which are too small to have a small union of their own, remain apathetic. In one medium-sized family retail business, no union dues (nominally 1.5% of wages) have ever been collected, absence from a small union meeting is condoned on the plea of being "too busy", and sometimes the whole small union skips one or two meetings altogether.
- 3. On the other hand, formal membership of the Shop Employees' Union is much valued as it carries many privileges, and production of the union card ensures considerate treatment from policemen and others. Thus any member who is threatened with expulsion for slack attendance takes care to compound for his offense with a large donation to the Korean war fund perhaps 10 basic units out of his monthly wage of 180, instead of the usual 3 5 basic units. Generally speaking shop employees can afford to do this because their shop pays them an "amusement allowance" in addition to their wages. And it is important to keep in with the Union, whose certificate is essential to getting another job if one loses one's present job.

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- 4. The Educational Workers' Union was originally the Chiao Lien (2403/5114) or Federation of Teachers, with branches for college, middle school and junior school teachers. The new title was adopted in October 1951, when headmasters, deans and principals were expelled from the association as being "on the capitalist side". In the new Union each school has a small union, which carefully scrutinizes applications for Union membership. Such applications must include a short life history and a suitably abject piece of self-criticism. On the whole very few schoolmasters have declined to humiliate themselves in this way and so very few have been excluded from the Union.
- 5. Small unions meet twice weekly for political discussion. Their members are also supposed to devote two hours each day to political study, but as the members of the teaching profession are better educated than other trade unionists this homework sometimes takes the form of writing propaganda for the Communists. In the vacations, teachers are required to teach for nothing at mass education classes sponsored by the General Labor Union. In spite of the above measures to transform them, the teachers are still regarded by other trade unionists as "old-fashioned intellectuals" and constantly accused of reactionary tendencies. They are rarely found in positions of any influence.
- 6. The Shanghai branch of the national Women's League grew out of the Women's Section of the Communists' underground Municipal Committee, which functioned before the fall of the city. It was formed in the spring of 1950 at a meeting in the Grand Theatre. Now, a year later, it claims half a million members in Shanghai. The leading light of the branch is CHANG Yun-yu (4545/5686/3768), a 100% Marxist. She and all her closest collaborators are former members of the Communist underground movement in Shanghai.
- 7. The League has undergone a perceptible change in the past year. Under the influence of women like CHANG Yun-yu, it started by appealing chiefly to female organized workers, who predominated in the original membership. Later the emphasis shifted to activities among housewives and women remaining in the homes. Except in a few factories where female labor is extensively employed, the main effort of the Women's League today is directed at women in the home, through district branches, alleyway groups and other small groups. There is no difficulty in joining the Women's League. Almost any woman is accepted without question and put to voluntary work. The Women's League plays a leading role in collecting donations, sending comforts to the troops, and inducing merchants to confess their sins. Women Producers' Societies' market home-made articles, and the large Consumers' Cooperative Stores are run mainly by women. Many training classes in sewing and knitting are organized by the League.

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